GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Higher Education – Proposal of Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt.Ltd. for skilling of students in Andhra Pradesh to leverage Microsoft's expertise in technology and education to train 1,62,000 students and unemployed youth across 300+ Colleges, Skill Development centers in Andhra Pradesh with an amount of Rs.30.79 crores and constitute a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee – Implementation of the Project – Orders – Issued.

HIGHER EDUCATION (EC) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.272. **Dated: 07.10.2021.**

Read the following:-

1) From the Director-Education, Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt.Ltd., Letter dated 18.02.2021.
2) From Dr.Kumar Annavarapu, Coordinator, Overseas Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Letter dated 22.02.2021
3) G.O.Rt.No.1141, Finance (FMU-HE-SKILLS-DEV-TRNG) Department, dated 03.05.2021.
4) G.O.Rt.No.65, Higher Education (EC) Department, dated 04.05.2021.
5) From the Secretary, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, Mangalagiri, Letter No.APSCHE/AC-II/Microsoft/Tender/2021, dated 09.06.2021.

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ORDER:-

In the Letter 1st read above, the Director-Education, Microsoft has submitted proposals and MoU to the Government on skilling requirements and solution. Microsoft proposed an end-to-end holistic scalable skilling solution, starting with Learning content and curriculum, trainings, experiential learning through Azure Labs / exercises, certifications up to preparing them for employment opportunities through LinkedIn courses.

2. In the Letter 2nd read above, Dr.Kumar Annavarapu, Coordinator Overseas Education, Andhra Pradesh has informed that the Microsoft's Future Ready Solutions industry certifications will facilitate the students of Andhra Pradesh to acquire necessary technical skills to become eligible workforce and they will become ready in demand for jobs with skills in productivity, IT infrastructure, Data science and Computer Science. The students through acquiring technical skills will become employable due to highly recognized and valuable certifications issued by the reputed and World renowned organization like Microsoft.

3. The matter was referred to the Chairman, A.P. State Council of Higher Education who in turn has submitted his remarks which are as follows:-

- The proposal submitted by the Microsoft for skilling of students in Andhra Pradesh has been circulated to all the State Universities requesting their opinion on the proposal after consultation with the stakeholders. After a few days an online meeting was also convened by A.P State Council of Higher Education on 22.03.2021 at 10:30 AM to elicit the opinion of the Universities regarding the usefulness and benefits of the proposal of Microsoft. All the Vice-Chancellors of the State Universities under Higher Education Department attended the meeting. The representatives from the Microsoft Director Education Sri Omjiwan Gupta and Sri Kumar Annavarapu, Coordinator Overseas Education also participated and clarified the issues related to the proposal.

- All the Vice-Chancellors have appreciated the proposal and opined that the Academic Programmes included in the proposal are highly beneficial to the students and certification from the company of the stature of Microsoft will add sustainable values to the students in the employment market. However, the

Vice-Chancellors requested the Government to provide all the courses to the students at free of cost.

- The online courses proposed by Microsoft are suitable and highly supportive to the new curriculum introduced in the state and also to the existing senior students in the employment market. The brand value of online courses offered by Microsoft is very high and approved by companies around the world. Further LinkedIn courseware is also offered at free of cost.

- In view of the positive opinion expressed by the Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities, and considering the merits of the proposal, the A.P. State Council of Higher Education is of the view that the Government may consider the proposal submitted by Microsoft positively.

4. The following are the major impact of the project of Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt.Ltd. for skilling of students in Andhra Pradesh:

a) The Microsoft project would provide end-to-end holistic scalable skilling solution, starting with Learning content and curriculum, trainings, experiential learning through Azure Labs / exercises, certifications up to preparing them for employment opportunities through LinkedIn courses highly customized as per the requirements of Government of Andhra Pradesh
b) The Microsoft project would provide online courses in cutting-edge domains with in-depth sessions on all 40 certification courses with pre-recorded content. Microsoft shall also provide every student a USD 100/- Azure pass (Rs 7500/- approx.) for all 1,62,000 students to practice cloud technologies. Additionally, it will also provide LinkedIn Learning which has more than 8600 courses in English across business, creative and technical categories and access to 20 free LinkedIn learning courses.
c) Azure will help students to build apps, explore Artificial Intelligence and big data with access to over 25 free Azure services.
d) The project will provide Microsoft Learn (MS Learn) that is the main platform of the project which will provide self-paced, digital learning resources to build skills and understand technologies.
e) Microsoft will provide O365 A1 (academic edition), a top productivity software for conducting online course delivery sessions, recordings of the course lectures, identity and access management.
f) The Microsoft project would not only provide certifications on future ready technologies but also create a platform so that the students can learn about the requisite emerging technology models anytime, anywhere and explore future ready job opportunities.
g) Microsoft's Future-Ready Skills Solutions, Industry relevant certifications, particularly technical certifications will further help to build a skilled workforce that meets the needs of employers for in-demand jobs with skills in Productivity, IT Infrastructure, Data Science and Computer Science.

5. Government after examination of the proposal and in consultation with the Finance Department, Sill Development Department, ITE&C Department and Law Department have issued orders vide G.O. 4th read above, according Administrative Sanction for an amount of Rs.29,00,00,000/- (Rupees twenty nine crore only) as additional funds in relaxation of treasury control and quarterly regulation orders pending provision of funds by obtaining supplementary grants at an appropriate time during the C.F.Y. 2021-22 towards skilling of students in Andhra Pradesh to leverage Microsoft's expertise in technology and education to train 1,62,000 students and unemployed youth across 300+ Colleges and Skill Development centers in Andhra Pradesh.

6. In the Letter 5th read above, the A.P. State Council of Higher Education invited E-Tenders from eligible bidders through a notification in newspapers on 18.05.2021. The bid document was published on E-Procurement platform of the Government of Andhra Pradesh on 17.05.2021. The A.P. State Council of Higher Education organized the pre-bid meeting on 19.05.2021 through online. The representatives of the three companies' namely Soft line Services India Private Limited, Software One India Private Limited and Sonata Information and Technology Private Limited have participated in the pre-bid meeting. The Technical Evaluation Committee met on 21.05.2021 through online and evaluated the technical bid documents of the three companies based on the stated eligibility criteria.

7. The three companies were invited for the presentations on 31.05.2021. Considering the technical evaluation scores including presentations, the technical evaluation committee has qualified two companies-Soft line Services India Private Limited and Sonata Information & Technology Private Limited, based on the scores obtained for the further process.

8. As per the procedure, the financial bid was opened by the Technical Evaluation Committee on 01.06.2021. The Soft line Services India Private Limited has quoted the lowest total of Rs. 26.09 Crores excluding the taxes where as Sonata Information & Technology Private Limited has quoted Rs. 34.04 Crores excluding the taxes. The L1 bidder (Soft line Services India Private Limited) quoted a price exclusion of taxes coming to Rs. 26.09 Crores and if GST is added to it which amounts to Rs. 4.70 Crores, the total expenditure would be RS. 30.79 Crores. Therefore, an additional amount of Rs. 1.79 Crores was needed to accept the LI bidder.

9. Since there is a gap of Rs. 1.79 Crores between the financial sanction and the quoted price of L1 bidder (Soft line Services India Private Limited) if taxes are included, the Technical Evolution Committee has resolved to report the matter to the Government for necessary orders. The Secretary, APSCHE has, therefore, requested the Government to issue further orders in this regard.

10. Government after careful examination of the matter and in view of the earlier orders issued vide G.Os. 3rd and 4th read above release of BRO/ASO for Rs.29.00 Crore, Government hereby sanction the additional amount of Rs.1.79 Crore.

11. Further, in order to monitor and evaluate the effective implementation of the project, the Government hereby constitute a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the Project with the following Members:-

1) Hon'ble Minister (Education)	..	Chairman
2) Hon'ble Minister (II & C, IT & SDT)	..	Member
3) Special Chief Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department	..	Convener
4) Principal Secretary to Government, IT & Skill Development Department	..	Member
5) Chairman, A.P. State Council of Higher Education	..	Member
6) Dr.Hari Krishna, Special Officer to C.M.	..	Member
7) Dr.Kumar Annavarapu, Coordinator, Overseas Education, Andhra Pradesh	..	Member

12. Government also issues the following guidelines for the implementation of the Project:-

1) The A.P. State Council of Higher Education shall implement the entire project and will ensure that maximum number of students enrolled for the course get Microsoft certification.

2) Microsoft Corporation (India) Pvt.Ltd. would train 1,62,000 students and unemployed youth across 300+ Colleges, Skill Development centers in Andhra Pradesh for skilling of students to leverage Microsoft's expertise in technology and education.

3) To upskill students on emerging technologies, Microsoft and AP State Government signed the MOU valid between 31st Dec 2020 to 31st Dec 2021. Keeping in mind the delayed execution of the "Skilling Program" due to the pandemic, the MoU would be extended for a further period of one year i.e up to 31st Dec 2022. The extension of MOU would be done 30 days prior to expiry of the current MoU date.

4) The scope of the MoU is to provide license to the student and arrange training in the respective skills and mock tests by the identified Microsoft partner. The student then would take the certification examination for obtaining certification.

5) According to RFP, payment of Microsoft Academic Certificate license, LinkedIn subscription and Microsoft software shall be made within 45 days of delivery of licences / subscription.

6) The course completion certificates obtained by the students may also have to be pushed to DigiLocker so that they can be shared with other departments like Employment & Training, Skill Development Corporation, following the guidelines in G.O.Rt.No. 65 Dated: 16-09-2020 of IT,E&C Department.

13. The Secretary, A.P. State Council of Higher Education, Mangalagiri, Guntur District shall take necessary action accordingly.

14. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance (FMU-HE&SDT) Dept., vide their U.O. No.FIN01-FMU0ASD/49/2021-FMU-THE **(Computer No.1387835)**, dated 05.10.2021.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

SATISH CHANDRA
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Secretary,
A.P. State Council of Higher Education,
Mangalagiri, Guntur District.

Copy to:-
The Coordinator, Overseas Education, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi
The Commissioner of Collegiate Education, A.P., Vijayawada
The Commissioner of Technical Education, A.P., Vijayawada
The P.S. to Principal Secretary to Government, Skill Development Department
The P.S. to principal Secretary to Government, I.T.E. & C Department
The Accountant General, A.P., Hyderabad
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada
The Director of Works & Accounts, A.P., Vijayawada
The pay & Accounts Officer, Vijayawada
The Higher Education (OP) Department
The Finance (BG.I) & (BG.II) Department
The CEO, APCFSS, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada
The P.S. Secretary to C.M.
The Addl.P.S. to Minister (Education)
The P.S. to Spl.Chief Secretary to Govt., Higher Education Dept.
SF/SCs.

/Forwarded::By order/

Section Officer